

▼ Political Science

# Times Talk discusses Abramoff scandal

James Bell  
Staff Writer

Once again the FHSU Times Talk allowed for a civil discussion of a pressing current issue.

Last Thursday, Chapman Rackaway, assistant professor of political science and justice studies, presented information on the recent events surrounding Washington D.C. based lobbyist, Jack Abramoff.

Abramoff had recently pleaded guilty to tax evasion, fraud, and conspiracy to bribe public officials in a deal that requires Abramoff to testify concerning members of congress.

Rackaway began the talk with an introduction into lobbying in American politics. "Anytime you are talking about lobbying

someone is going to cringe," Rackaway said.

Rackaway warned of the possible political fallout of the scandal. "What the Jack Abramoff deal threatens to do is to unravel the very fabric of the influence industry in Washington D.C."

"When these less than ethical individuals get hooked up with less than ethical members of congress it is a disharmonic convergence of dangerous proportions," Rackaway said. The amount of money on the national level creates a large industry in national politics. Rackaway said "All political campaigning during the 2004 election cycle amounted to a 7 billion dollar industry"

The scandal could have far reaching ef-

fects into government, "this could effect up to one seventh of the republican party elected to congress," Rackaway said

Several times during the presentation Rackaway alluded to the lack of political interest in the American electorate. "Abramoff feeds that negative attitude that encourages us to further withdraw from democratic politics," Rackaway said.

In speaking of Abramoff, Rackaway said, "We are talking about someone who is functionally engaging in extortion"

Rackaway presented many details of the Abramoff scandal during the presentation central to which is the taking of "66 million dollars from the Indian tribes," in which Abramoff was working with.

In response to questions about reform

Rackaway said, "There is almost no reform to end this stuff"

The scandal was not limited to D.C. the scandal has connections to Kansas as well, "Moran gave about 2,500 bucks away that had come through an Abramoff affiliated group," Rackaway said. Moran is the Republican congressman for the First District including Hays. The amount, Rackaway said, is very small in terms of D.C. funds.

In typical fashion Rackaway related the problem to low electorate interest in the political process. "Democracy's core is not the vote in and of itself the vote is merely the vehicle of accountability without that democracy is a sham," Rackaway said.

The next times talk will be today, titled, Food as an Aphrodisiac, given by Carol Hackerott, director of residential life.

## Perniciaro appears in opera

Bonnie LeRoy  
Assistant Editor

FHSU Instructor of Voice and Opera Joseph Perniciaro is set to make his debut with the Wichita Grand Opera this Saturday.

Perniciaro will play Monostatos in Mozart's "The Magic Flute." Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Century II Concert Hall in Wichita , and 3 p.m. Sunday at the Fox Theatre in Hutchinson.

The opera features an international cast, with singers from Italy, Russia, Washington D.C., New York and Kansas. The conductor is German and making his American debut with this performance.

"The cast and the artistic staff are amazing," said Perniciaro. "This is a great piece for new au-



Perniciaro

diences. (It's a) great comedy and drama. ... (with) great characters and catchy tunes."

The music for the opera will be performed in German while the English translation is projected above the stage so the audience can follow along with the story. The dialogue will be in English.

"This is as close to American Musical Theatre as opera gets," said Perniciaro.

Although this is Perniciaro's first time with the Wichita Grand Opera, he's no stranger to performing in operas. Before coming to FHSU, Perniciaro performed in numerous operas across the United States.

"I've sung this role (Monostatos) all over the country so when I moved to Hays, I emailed my resume to the company and they called requesting an audition," said Perniciaro. "I sang for them and they offered me the role."

Tickets may be purchased for the Saturday performance by calling 316-262-8054. To buy tickets for the Sunday performance, call 620-663-1981.

## Encore Series presents "The Bobs"

The Encore Series continues on Feb. 21 with a unique performance by The Bobs.

The four-member a capella group will take the stage at 8 p.m. in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

The Bergen Record/Home News Tribune calls The Bobs "One of the most entertaining acts on the live circuit today."

Highlights of the group's career include performing with Jason Alexander on the Emmy Awards telecast, and providing



musical commentary for National Public Radio's Morning Edition.

Legendary, Grammy-nominated a cappella quartet The Bobs presents an unforgettable evening of vocal acrobatics, lyrical hijinks and spontaneous hilarity in Rhapsody In Bob.

Alongside The Bobs' fresh, fun interpretations of classics ranging from Bach to Weill to Jimi Hendrix, this program showcases the unrivaled cre-

ativity in their award-winning original material.

Individual tickets for The Bobs concert are available now at the Student Service Center in the Memorial Union.

Reserved seats tickets will cost \$18 General Public, \$16 Senior Citizens & Children Under 18 and \$14 FHSU Students. Unreserved tickets will be \$14, \$12 and \$10 respectively.

For additional information contact Carol Brock at 785-628-5801 or cbrock@fhsu.edu. Or visit The Bobs web site www.bobs.com.

## Allocations committee reviews applications

James Bell  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association allocations process continued this week with meetings beginning last Sunday with student organizations.

The total amount to be distributed by SGA this year will be approximately the same amount as last year, \$475,000, according to SGA Vice President Tavish Marshall.

Each organization had ten minutes to present the committee with their budget proposal followed by a ten minute question and answer period, said Doug Cure, chairman

of the allocations committee.

"Groups have done a good job presenting," Cure said, noting, though, that there are always questions and concerns.

The meetings will continue on Sundays for the rest of the month, Cure said.

Groups that presented this week were; SGA, The University Leader, The Tigers Tale, Brock and Bridle, Creative Arts Society, English Club and Lines, TigerWild and TigerTots.

Cure said each committee member will create a budget after the meetings have concluded and a proposed budget is due on March 5.

## Fire causes slight damage

James Bell  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, a small fire broke out in Wiest hall. An unattended candle was identified as the cause, according to Jennifer Mayers, Wiest Hall director. The fire was contained in the room after being discovered by hall residents, who called the fire department and Mayers.

"Luckily, it was caught early enough," Mayers said. Mayers responded to the call and was able to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher. All the systems worked

like they were supposed to, she said. The room and building alarms went off and the building was evacuated.

Damages were limited to the carpeting and small table on which the candle sat.

The residents were allowed back in after around 90 minutes.

FHSU is un-usual in that open flames were allowed in the dorms. Mayers said, open flames would not be allowed next year.

According to Mayers, the residents of the room face penalties including the cost of damages and educational sanctions.

## The voice of integrity at Fort Hays State University

# the edge

Feb. 9, 2006; Volume 1, Issue 9

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### Make Some Noise



TYLER MESSENGER/THE EDGE  
Members of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity dress down for an men's FHSU basketball game at Gross Memorial Coliseum. The Tigers have won 29 home games in a row.

## Musicians prepare for upcoming Gala

The Edge Staff

Students from the FHSU music department will present "Salute to America," a Gala concert featuring a variety of patriotic music.

It will be performed at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center in Sheridan Hall.

There will be a \$10 admission charge with all proceeds going to the FHSU music department.

All the performing arts students in the music department will participate in the concert, with selections from groups including the Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, several choral ensembles and students from the Opera and Musical Theatre Departments

The audience will hear well-known selections like "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America

the Beautiful," and other patriotic music like "Fanfare for the Common Man" and the "Armed Forces Salute." The Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, the Choral Department and the Opera and Musical Theatre Departments and many others will perform

"No other performance features all the performing art students, and we hope that this program will become an annual event," said Crull.

The concert is presented by the Department of Music in conjunction with the Department of Political Science and Justice Studies and the American Democracy Project. It is sponsored by the Department of Music, Office of the Provost, and Auto World of Hays.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling (785) 628-4533.

## Stopped in their Tracks

## Web portal encounters delays

Robert Cummins  
Staff Writer

The TigerTracks web portal, originally scheduled to launch last week, has been delayed due to technical reasons.

"Whenever implementing something new there are always going to be a few issues popping up," explained Jackie Ruder, web portal administrator.

The new system that holds information did not hold all the information for blackboard users, but that has been resolved, Ruder said.

Adjunct faculty, high school users and

a few others were not included in the new system designed to hold blackboard user info for TigerTracks and had to be added before it could go live.

Ruder said that another issue is that single sign-on - a chief feature of TigerTracks - is not currently available for Scatcat email, although Scatcat is currently available in the web portal through a second sign-in.

Single sign-on is, however, available for blackboard through the web portal, David Schmidt, director of computing services, said.

Schmidt said that they decided to try

and correct the problems with TigerTracks before launching it.

Although not all issues have been corrected, the main one has and a decision will be made this week sometime about whether or not to launch TigerTracks as is or continue improving it. "There is complexity here," he said.

Although the system is functioning without problems right now, there are future upgrades in plan for TigerTracks to prevent possible problems, Schmidt said.

Additional equipment, including a new server and mainframe, are expected to be installed to help load balancing and prevent

performance issues that may occur when higher numbers of students and faculty access the system at the same time.

Schmidt said the replacement for the current Student Web Services is working properly as is the customization feature that was planned.

Schmidt said that TigerTracks staff have been working extra hours to try and get the portal ready so that when it is released, it will be as 'attractive' as possible.

Schmidt expects a decision to be made this week about whether or not to postpone the launch of TigerTracks a little longer or to release it with fewer features.



EDITORIAL

▼ on the edge

Allocations affect all students

Almost half-a-million dollars is up for grabs at FHSU.

Student organizations are scrambling to get as big a piece of this money-filled pie as they can.

Some groups will eat heartily, while others will be scrounging for scraps.

But no matter what happens, the ones footing the bill for this dinner will be you, the students.

SGA will distribute about \$475,000 to various campus groups that apply during this year's allocations process.

The money comes from student activity fees, which account for \$3.70 of the \$101.75 per credit hour charged to students.

It doesn't sound like much, but a student taking an average of 30 hours over two semesters would contribute \$111 per academic year.

Take that number (give or take a bit) times about 5,000 students and, well, it adds up fast.

The point is that this is your money and you should stay informed about how it is spent. Tell your SGA senators what groups you think deserve more money and which ones deserve less.

This is your money. It goes to groups whose purpose, at least in theory, is to serve the students.

Many groups are deserving of funding. Some may not be. It's up to you to take an interest in how your money is spent. Voice your opinion. Be heard.

-The Editorial Board

The Edge of Reason

By Zach Becker



For more info on this "monumental ineptitude" and "public relations disaster,"

visit  
BlogCat  
fhsu.edu/blogcat

Technology at FHSU less than perfect



James Bell  
Staff Writer

Scatcat, TigerTracks, and the laptop university, all programs implemented at FHSU to create a more technological university, grounded in bringing FHSU into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, all miserable failures. Now while I am not one to assign unnecessary blame, reason creates wonder as to why these marvels have landed flat on their face.

While some instructors use blackboard religiously, some choose not to use it at all, creating a substandard educational experience in the computer centered world

we live in. Not taking advantage of all educational resources is simple laziness and students should press instructors to take full advantage of the tools they are given. FHSU administration should take an active part in ensuring that instructors are fully versed in the technology and are employing it in all classes as well. If blackboard cannot be used in all classes a laptop in a classroom setting is likely to get the same hit and miss use.

Another recent blunder in FHSU technology is the TigerTracks web portal. After the program has been advertised most of this year and worked on for much longer, on the launch date all FHSU users were rewarded with was a page explaining that they were experiencing technical difficulties.

If FHSU wants to continue to pride itself on its technological achievements and the implementation of

advanced technologies it must fully develop the resources it has before moving into new areas of development.

While the laptop university has yet to be implemented it is certainly not popular with the bulk of the student body and is creating tension among tech-savvy students who feel the requirements for the laptops were to high end for many of the FHSU students. The logistics of the program were simply not well thought out, and creates concern among students and instructors alike.

Moving into the new tech age will certainly not be comfortable for some, and efforts to bring FHSU to the forefront of college technology are laudable, but if those efforts create undue stress into the college experience they will not be valued, and will defeat the reasonable expectations of implementing new technologies at FHSU.

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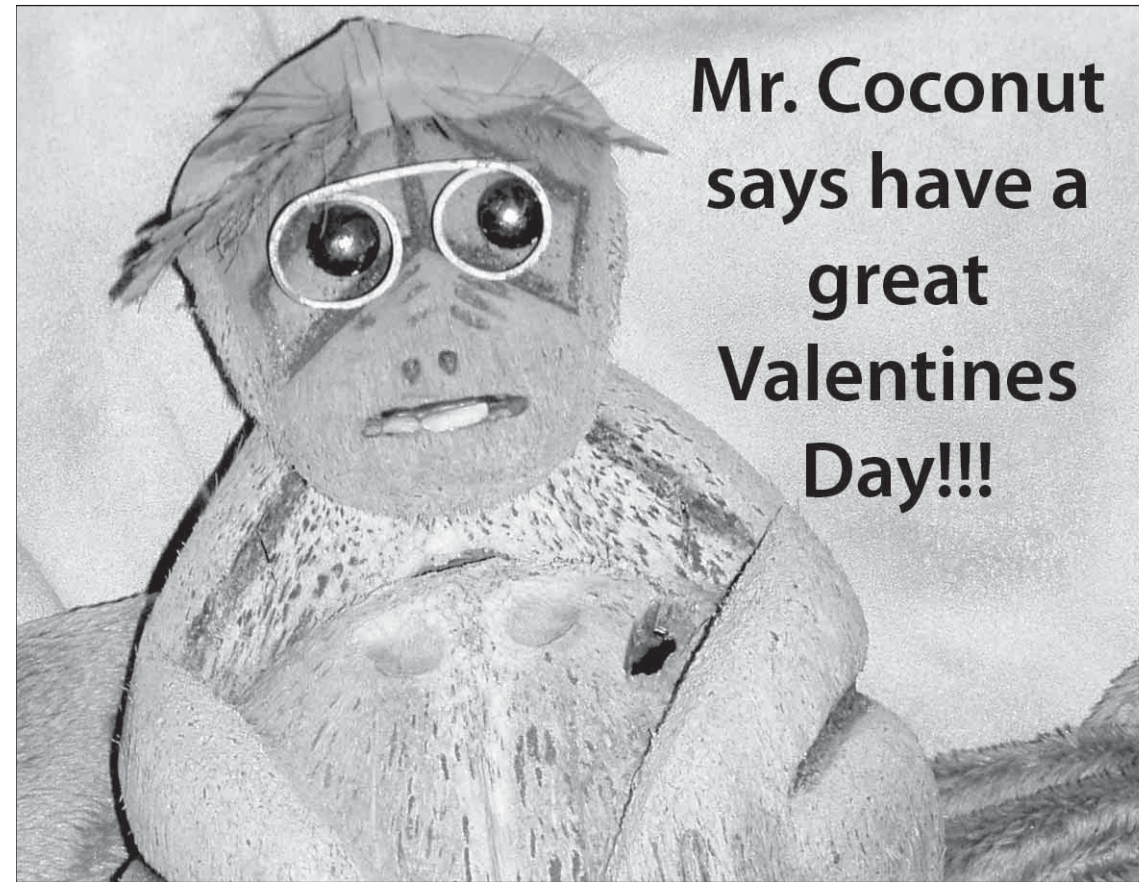
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Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to act as a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

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the edge

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Events

**Chili Soup Supper** Thursday February 16th 4:00PM-8:00PM at the VWF Hall- 22nd & Vine St. \$5.00 per person (5 and under free) Tickets available in Memorial Union.

**Percussion Ensemble Concert,** Beach/Schmidt Auditorium, February 16th 8 p.m.

**BFA Exhibition** February 17th to 24th. Opening reception February 17th at 7:00PM Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art.

**Attention Seniors!** The FHSU Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the 2006 Pilot Award, which recognizes an outstanding faculty member. To make your nomination, visit [www.fhsu.edu/alumni/award.shtml](http://www.fhsu.edu/alumni/award.shtml).

Valentines

*Jenny, Thanks for being a part of my life. You are so special to me. Happy Valentines Day!!! --Love, Zach*

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Next issue: Feb. 23

*The Edge reserves the right to edit or refuse any classified advertising.*





On Top Of The World

Photos by Tyler Messenger

This has been a good year for Tiger sports. On February 4 the baseball team won their double header. The Tiger men's basketball team is undefeated while the women's basketball team is 2nd in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. In wrestling FHSU has some of the best athletes in the league. A tremendous year for FHSU sports indeed!





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▼ From BlogCat

Professor vents on portal, Schmidt responds

For the last week or so the promised FHSU portal site has hosted the following message:

*TigerTracks will be available very soon. We're experiencing some technical difficulties with certain applications and we are working to resolve them quickly. We appreciate your patience.*

I have little doubt that the Portal Development Team is making every earnest effort to get things up and running as quickly as possible, but given the hype that preceded it, the delay must certainly be beginning to undermine the credibility of this effort (and related Mobile Computing efforts) among the user community.

In situations such as this, regular blogging by the Portal team could go a long way to reassuring the user community and defusing the emerging public relations disaster.

This situation also highlights the monumental ineptitude of

FHSU's two student newspapers. *The Edge*, in an effort to scoop *The Leader*, managed to pull a "Dewey Defeats Truman" screw-up by (pre)announcing the arrival of the portal in (Jan. 26th's) edition.

*The Leader*, by contrast, is evidently oblivious to the situation, having published a grand total of zero articles on the subject in two editions since the promised TigerTracks release date.

So much for investigative journalism! I mean, c'mon, this only affects every student on campus! **Postscript (2/1/06):** Okay, it felt good to get that off my chest. Now, to be fair "Vaporware," "public relations disaster," and "monumental ineptitude" were clearly over the top and unwarranted. I hereby publicly retract them and apologize to the affected parties and all of

fended readers for the tone of this post. It was intended to provoke a response and it was successful in that goal. Thanks especially to Dave Schmidt for his rapid and detailed response (see comment) and to the newspapers for sitting up and taking notice.

**-Ron Schott**  
*Professor of Geoscience*

faculty, and some others. After trying a number of technical fixes that would have permitted them to log directly in the way they do now, we found that none of those solutions would really work. So, we are adding them to the Directory so that they can log in without going through the TigerTrack portal. We hope to complete this task very quickly.

Also, it turned out that we are having to redo some code for the UBC student webmail access. Whether to turn on the portal without true single sign on for this system is a judgment call while we are working on the code.

Since we hoped to get the portal up and running last week, I am fairly sympathetic to the writers of the newspaper articles.

I'll keep readers posted on our progress.

**-Dave Schmidt**  
*Director, Computing and Telecommunications*

The voice of integrity at FHSU

**the ed**

Web Portal

**Hunting season... TigerTracks launches**

Robert Cummings  
Staff Writer

This week FHSU implemented the new TigerTracks program, the first in a series of steps to implement a new web portal environment for FHSU students.

Jackie Rader, applications management analyst and serial administrator, explained that TigerTracks will allow students and faculty to gain access to multiple services simultaneously using a single login.

Services that will use a TigerTracks login include Search, the Blackboard Learning System, Student Web Services, campus life, and TigerNet, the new Wireless network.

meaning the FHSU campus.

The web portal will allow students the ability to access multiple services from a single location rather than different locations, as in the past, Rader said. The single login feature would allow students to login and access all included services from the web portal with a single login, Rader said.

making Rader more confident the students and easier to use, Rader said.

TigerTracks is actually based on a free open source product called Joomla.

David Schmidt, director of computing and telecommunications, explained that TigerTracks is to be implemented in several stages.

"The next big goal is online registration and enrollment," Schmidt said.

"Next on the list will be online degree checks and the ability for a student to check course availability or to change their major from the portal."

Schmidt expects that in a year or two, the web portal should be available to contractors and staff, allowing simple methods to gain information for students to view current students and past graduates and other information. Schmidt expects this to expand the use of these services.

The web portal will provide users with a more customized experience, allowing them the ability to create a custom portal for FHSU, even with the help of a student, and maintain it with other people in a series of steps to implement a new web portal environment for FHSU students.

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Jan. 26 edition of *The Edge*.

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# Career Services offers opportunities

Brandie Johnson  
Staff Writer

Nothing strikes fear into the hearts of seniors like the thought of not finding a job after graduating from college.

After spending the last four (maybe five) years preparing and educating themselves at higher educational institutions, the search for employment is the final frontier for college students.

Fort Hays State University students can prepare for life after college with help from Career Services, located in Sheridan 214.

With the motto, "Serving you from admission to position," Career Services is here to assist students in the job-search process at all levels of their college career.

"We like to have the students begin taking advantage of our services as early as they start school their freshman year," Dan Rice, director of Career Services, said. "The more time we have to work with students and the more they participate in the activities that we provide them, the more opportunities they will have to choose from. It is a developmental process. We like to have the students start early so we have more time to help them."

However, the assistance from Career Services does not end once a student receives a diploma. FHSU

alumni are also able to take advantage of what Career Services has to offer.

"We offer alumni all the same services we offer our students," Rice said. "All alumni can participate in all the services we have available to students, including on-campus interviews, career and job fairs and mock interviews, to name just a few. We encourage them to take advantage of the services and many do."

Alumni can visit <http://www.fhsu.edu/career/alumniinfo.shtml> for more information on how Career Services can assist them in their quest for employment. Alumni may schedule an appointment with Rice to discuss individual employment needs. According to the web site, "During an advising session, alumni discuss topics such as conducting a job search in a specific location, developing a network of employment contacts, preparing for interviews, and/or the use of specific Career Services' resources."

According to the Career Services web site, [www.fhsu.edu/career](http://www.fhsu.edu/career), "Career Services assists students, alumni and community residents in acquiring the skills necessary for a successful job search and provides extensive information on numerous employment opportunities. Resources are also available to assist students



ZACH BECKER/THE EDGE  
Students converse with exhibitors at the Career Networking Fair held in the fall 2005 semester.

seeking admittance to graduate/professional school."

Resume and cover letter preparation, mock interviews, interviewing techniques and job search strategies are just a few of the many services offered by Career Services.

Throughout the academic year, Career Services offers a host of activities and events to better prepare students for life after FHSU.

Mock interviews allow the student or alumni a second chance to make a first impression. Students can practice polishing their interviewing skills and receive immediate feedback from the interviewers. All students, freshmen to seniors, are encouraged to participate.

Each fall, Career Services sponsors a Career Networking Day with approximately 60 employers participating in the fair.

The career fair offers students an opportunity to learn more about potential career opportunities, make contacts with employers and gain valuable insight about today's employers.

Also taking place during the fall is the Senior Transition Night, in which a presentation will provide an overview of the services offered by Career Services. At the beginning of each semester, a Job Search Work-

shop is held. The workshops provide information on writing resumes and cover letters, interviewing techniques, learning effective job search strategies and planning a successful job search.

The Spring/Internship Fair, which is held each February, concentrates on connecting FHSU students with employers offering internship opportunities. The goal is to provide an informal professional setting to expose students of all class levels to internships.

A Teacher Career Fair is held each spring. It is open to graduates seeking their first teaching position, teachers desiring to change school districts and teachers wanting to relocate to another state.

There are approximately 100 school districts nationwide participating in the fair. The upcoming 2006 Teacher Career Fair will take place April 24, 2006, in Gross Memorial Coliseum, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Rice encourages students and alumni to log on to the Career Services web site to get a taste of what they offer.

"We have everything on our web page, including (information on) career days, mock interview days, workshops, (as well as) ready resources in writing cover let-

ters, resumes, interviewing tips, second interviews and networking, to name just a few," Rice said.

"There is even a quick link on the site index that says 'Check us out'. We have streaming videos discussing our career days and mock interviews," he said.

Rice said the purpose of Career Services is to aid and assist students and alumni. "However, we need a commitment from the students to take advantage of all our activities and events," he said. "The Career Fair, Teacher Fair, Internship Fair, and mock interviews are all about getting the students connected with employers and helping them develop the skills employers are looking for in employees they wish to hire, or the type of candidates graduate schools are looking to recruit."

Students and alumni interested in taking advantage of the wealth of information and assistance Career Services has to offer may stop by Sheridan 214, contact the office at 785-628-4260 or by logging on to the Career Services web site.

"We provide the services for the students and alumni and we need their (commitment) to participate in order for the many free services to be of value to them," Rice said.



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Great Bend - 1910 Broadway - 620-868-5000

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